# Advanced Placement United States History

## Course Description

This course examines the evolution of the American republic from the initial European incursions into North America to the present. Our investigation of the nature of American democracy includes methods, evidence, and scholarship from the areas of social, political, economic, cultural, and diplomatic history. The course is divided into periods of time and focuses on the themes in the AP Course Description, including national identity, economic transformation, and U.S. actions on the world stage.

## Course Objectives

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

• Demonstrate a mastery of a broad body of historical knowledge

• Use historical evidence to defend and support basic arguments and positions

• Differentiate between various schools of historical thought and interpretation

• Interpret and draw conclusions from various pieces of historical data including: original documents, cartoons, graphs, etc.

• Demonstrate an effective use of analytical skills of evaluation, cause-and-effect relationships, and compare and contrast

• Work effectively in groups to produce products, make presentations, and solve

Problems

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| **Grading Scale** |

The grading scale will be the traditional 100-90 = A, 89-80 = B, etc.

The grades will be weighted as follows:

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| Exams | 60% (Bi-weekly) |
| Quizzes | 20% (Weekly) |
| Binder Checks | 5% (Quarterly) |
| Note Checks | 5% (Quarterly) |
| Formal Essays | 10% (One per Semester) |

## Your Reading Material

As of now, the main course text will be *American History* by Brinkley. I am still looking at a secondary textbook option to add different historical viewpoints.

## Course Outline

See the APUSH Course Description from College Board.

## APUSH Policies

**Late Work or Incomplete Work:**

Is not accepted

**Extenuating Circumstances:** If you have extenuating circumstances that prevent you from completing projects, quizzes or participating in the class, please contact the instructor to make alternative arrangements. The possibility of alternative arrangements is at the discretion of the instructor. Active communication is the key to overcoming any hurdles you may encounter during the term. The standard absent policy is simple: if your absence is excused, you can make up the work. If the absence is unexcused, you receive a zero (this includes quizzes and exam days).

### Final Projects and Final Exams

If you attend practice full-length AP exam(s) in April, you have the possibility of guaranteeing yourself an “A” on the Final Exam. There will be an EOC (End of Course Exam) you will take as part of the final exam.

### Extra Credit Policy

Extra credit is offered randomly depending on the instructor’s mood and/or based on intriguing world events. As a rule of thumb, do not expect much in the way of extra credit.

### Plagiarism Policy

In essence, plagiarism is the theft of someone else's ideas and work. Whether a student copies verbatim or simply rephrases the ideas of another without properly acknowledging the source, it is still plagiarism. In the preparation of work submitted to meet course requirements, whether a draft or a final version of a paper or project, students must take great care to distinguish their own ideas and language from information derived from other sources. Sources include published primary and secondary materials, electronic media, and information and opinions gathered directly from other people.

A discussion thread, computer program, marketing plan, PowerPoint presentation, and other similar work produced to satisfy a course requirement are, like a paper, expected to be the original work of the student submitting it. Copying documentation from another student or from any other source without proper citation is a form of academic dishonesty, as is producing work substantially from the work of another. **Students must assume that collaboration in the completion of written assignments is prohibited unless explicitly permitted by the instructor. Students must acknowledge any collaboration and its extent in all submitted coursework**. This class will require lengthy study guides to be completed with different chapters, and if you copy from someone, both parties will receive a zero and I will recommend you be removed from this course.

## Tutoring

If at any time you need additional help, you can schedule an after school tutorial. There are many additional resources available as well, including test prep books that can be inexpensively purchases from Amazon.com or Half.com (5 Steps to a 5, Kaplan AP US History, etc.). The only book I would advise you to avoid is the book made by Barrons.

## Course Work

In this course, you will be completing various essays (DBQ’s and FRS’s), practice quizzes and exams, as well as small group assignments. Usage of the Internet either at home, at school, or on your phone is almost a necessity. Online access can enhance the educational experience greatly. Many class periods will consist of discussion, PowerPoint’s, and brief videos to supplement the textbook readings. You should expect somewhere between 30-60 minutes of homework **every week night**. If you cannot commit to that, you will most probably not succeed in this course.

The typical grade in this course the previous two years is a C+. Last year, there were 39 students enrolled. 18 passed the AP exam, and of those 18, 16 of them received a B or higher. Those who failed either got a grade of C or lower, or lacked sufficient writing skills and background historical knowledge. If you are in this class simply to “pump up” your college application, I would not recommend you stay. It is very possible to receive a good grade, but you must put in the requisite number of study hours.

College-Level Class Rule of Thumb

* For every 1 hour in the classroom, you should spend 3 hours outside the classroom studying and reviewing.

In high school this is sometimes impractical due to other commitments such as classes, sports, or clubs. But just keep this in mind when deciding how many AP classes to take. This course is the rough equivalent of an introductory college-level United States history course so be prepared for a heavy reading load and a heavy work load.

## AP Exam

Wednesday, May 15, 2013 @ 8:00 A.M.

## Class Webpage

Battleofhastings2010.wikispaces.com